

That's a Wrap!



OFMC Deputy Director Emerson Eskeets addresses the crowd at the 2010 groundbreaking for the St. Francis Indian School gym and cafeteria, which the Department noted was its 4,000th ARRA project.

OFMC Leads DOI ARRA Performers

OFMC is the second Interior Department program to bring its ARRA construction projects to "substantial completion," according to DOI Recovery Act Coordinator Mary Pletcher. OFMC oversaw the use of more than \$300 million in ARRA funding to complete 127 projects across Indian Country—mostly for BIE-funded schools.

An estimated 18,000 BIE students and nearly 40 percent of BIE-funded schools benefited from new and improved schools due to the Recovery Act's investment.

"OFMC did a great job managing the projects and staying focused. OFMC was able to use the funding for more projects than originally proposed," Pletcher said. Like OFMC, many DOI bureaus were able to extend the impact of the 2009 ARRA funding, mostly due to lower-than-expected bids received for construction projects which allowed additional projects to be funded.

Included in the OFMC projects were 19 On-the-Job Work Force Training programs. Through one of the programs, managed by OFMC's Southern Plains Regional Office, a local tribal member provided the labor for an Minor Improvement and Repair (MI&R) project to improve both the interior and exterior of the Southern Plains Indian Museum, operated by the DOI Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB), in Anadarko, Okla.

[Video: See the improvements at the Southern Plains Indian Museum.](#)

[Video: See improvements at IACB's Plains Indian Museum in Browning Mont.](#)